Soccer team visits Europe

by Mutsumi Nakamura
Admissions Office

For more than two decades, our soccer team, headed by Satoru Fujii, has been open to local residents. Fukai once served as a member of the Japan Football Association Technical Committee, and in his former work with FC Tokyo, he produced professional players and coaches using his excellent ability as a training director and football theorist. "I wanted our players to learn from Dutch soccer teams that are well-known for being highly organized. I also wanted them to gain overseas experiences, as many of them had never been abroad," Fujii said, pointing out the significance of the training trip.

During the matches, numerous players from the opposing teams were the best amateurs who are heading toward their professional football careers. JIU won 2-1 over the Belgian team after a close match, maintaining high spirits despite severe weather conditions. The JIU student athletes also took part in cultural learning opportunities in Europe in addition to their matches. They visited local museums to appreciate European fine art. They also paid a courtesy visit to Rotterdam City Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb. During their visit, JIU soccer team member Ryoji Kawanishi gave a speech in English in response to the mayor's welcoming words. Fukai noticed the marked difference in his players' daily training. "Our players have improved their passing speed on the field, and the sound when their shoes make contact with the ball is sharper than before," he said.

Much to the JIU players' delight, one of the Dutch teams sent them 20 Derbystar balls — larger and heavier than ordinary ones — as a token of friendship. The JIU players will continue publishing their skills with the gifts.

Togane mayor pledges cooperation with JIU

by JIU Times

JIU Times had the privilege of speaking with Togane Mayor Mikio Shikama. The following is a summary of the interview.

Q: Congratulations on being elected mayor of the city of Togane. You set "regional vitalization" as a municipal administration policy. Togane has also promoted cooperation and partnership with Josai International University in the past as one of the measures for regional development and revitalization. What does the university mean to Togane?

A: There are no universities other than JIU in this area. JIU is the "knowledge group" and "knowledge base" of the entire Kujukuri area. We commission professors from the university for the comprehensive planning council of Togane and en- terprise invitation committee, and are receiving guidance in various fields. Students of the university also kindly help us through their learning of how to care for primary school students. Since the opening of the Regional Medical Center in Togane, scholastic facilities along the national highway have been open to local residents and the community, enhancing its presence, as well as strengthening our trust as a community-based university. We would like to express our deepest gratitude.

Q: What do you hope to become an international university strongly bonded with the local community? I agree that our relationship between the city of Togane and JIU has been expanding and deepening through exchanging opinions on occasions such as joint executive meetings. University President Kenji Sugiyoshi has said, "Our university and local community are in the same boat in regards to the declining birthrate and aging society." As I agree with you that the city of Togane and JIU are in the same boat, sharing the future as a community. The rapid progress of population decline and the growth of an aging society has been accelerating throughout our country. Our dear community, the Sotobo area in Chiba Prefecture, is not an exception, so I am worried about population reduction. For regional vitalization, it is essential to have more residents of younger generations in the community. Thanks to your university, the number of commercial facilities along the national highway is increasing. Having a university with over 1,000 international students in the local community in the modern era of globalization has a significant value for us. We would like to keep improving employment, the living environment and measures to support child-rearing so that both Japanese and international students can happily live in this area.

Q: There are many students in the Faculty of Nursing who receive scholarships from Togane Kujukuri Regional Medical Center in Togane, the Netherlands in a series of training matches. The JIU team consisted of 23 players and three staff members, and it played five games in the Netherlands and one in Belgium. Fukai once served as a member of the Japan Football Association Technical Committee, and in his former work with FC Tokyo, he produced professional players and coaches using his excellent ability as a training director and football theorist. "I wanted our players to learn from Dutch soccer teams that are well-known for being highly organized. I also wanted them to gain overseas experiences, as many of them had never been abroad," Fujii said, pointing out the significance of the training trip.

During the matches, numerous players from the opposing teams were the best amateurs who are heading toward their professional football careers. JIU won 2-1 over the Belgian team after a close match, maintaining high spirits despite severe weather conditions. The JIU student athletes also took part in cultural learning opportunities in Europe in addition to their matches. They visited local museums to appreciate European fine art. They also paid a courtesy visit to Rotterdam City Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb. During their visit, JIU soccer team member Ryoji Kawanishi gave a speech in English in response to the mayor's welcoming words. Fukai noticed the marked difference in his players' daily training. "Our players have improved their passing speed on the field, and the sound when their shoes make contact with the ball is sharper than before," he said.

Much to the JIU players' delight, one of the Dutch teams sent them 20 Derbystar balls — larger and heavier than ordinary ones — as a token of friendship. The JIU players will continue publishing their skills with the gifts.
One immigrant’s legacy

by JIU Times

In this issue we focus on the family history of one immigrant and his descendants. The Shidai Asal. Color Resealated published a 16-page article written by linguist Kikun Nomoto about this family in the winter of 1790. According to the article, Takeyasu Yoshio moved to Brazil in 1918 at age 35. Although his father was a medical doctor for the Mori family, descendants of the famous chanye clan, he decided to become a craftsman. When he was 11 years old, he traveled from Fukuoka to Tokyo to visit his aunt, but he was not allowed to stay as he had decided not to become a doctor. He ended up staying with acquaintances, the Haras. Yoshio then became interested in bartering. His father passed away one year after he moved to Tokyo. He became a successful barber and tried to establish a barber school of his own. However, he decided to move to Brazil after helping Naue Ogawa, his brother-in-law, prepare himself to migrate to Brazil. They started their new life in Sao Paulo in 1919 selling cotton and then coffee beans. Takeyasu and Hana Yoshio had seven children. Their first son Takeshi was born in 1909 in Japan. Their daughter Momoyo married Toshiaki Tiago Sakuta, the owner of a pharmaceutical company, and together they had three children: Tiago Brasil Junior, Chita Norma and Telma Mary. Their ancestors were doctors for generations in Japan and one of them once guided well-known doctors including Gen-paku Sugita and Ranka Maeno. They introduced a totally new concept translating a book and explaining the human anatomy. It changed the course of Japanese medicine then.

Takeyasu Yoshio’s sixth son Miguel Kaneko also became a medical doctor; continuing the history of medical professionals in the family. Additionally, Dr. Telma Mary Kaneko became a pharmacy professor at the University of Sao Paulo. Her research field is evaluation and quality control of drugs and cosmetics. Kaneko joined the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s Training Program for Researchers in Japan in May 2008. President Kenji Sugiyama of Josai International University, then a professor at Josia University, was her research adviser. One of the main goals of this training was to acquire knowledge related to the efficiency and safety of topical pharmaceutical dosage and cosmetic products. The other objective was to gain more knowledge on the current studies in the field. Kaneko lives in Sao Paulo with her husband, Taro Kaneko, a second-generation Japanese Brazilian and well-known painter. His father was a famous poet who was born in Nigata Prefecture and moved to Brazil in 1934; he passed away in 2004 at the age of 91.

JIU 13th in Japan university ranking

by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

In March, JIU was ranked 13th in the Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings 2018 — compiled in collaboration with Japan’s licencee Corp. — in the environmental sector. JIU’s international education has been highly rated for its proportion of staff to international students on campus, the number of students in various types of international exchange programs and the number of classes taught in a language other than Japanese.

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

JOSAI 25/50 ANNIVERSARY

1. Expanding the capabilities of our students to serve society
2. Developing human resources with an international mindset and extensive knowledge of Japanese culture
3. Continuously improving the quality of our educational programs, in collaboration with local and international communities
4. Improving our research capabilities and promoting innovation
5. Enriching the campus environment through internationalization and networking
6. Establishing a stronger university governance system to support the dynamic development of teaching, research and contributions to the community
7. Strengthening the impact of our communication capabilities and social presence

About Josai University Educational Corporation’s Medium-Term Goals

The Josai University Educational Corporation Medium-Term Goals (2016-2020) are comprised of seven “J-Visions.” These seven visions are inter-related, multiplying their synergy, to further our commitment to becoming a leading university in Japan, Asia and the world.

The corporation established Josia University in 1965, and it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. Josia International University was established in 1992, and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017. We are determined to bring to bear all of our mental energies, capabilities, accumulated knowledge and experience on the tasks that will define our future.

2002 World Cup exhibit at Togane

by Tomoko Hirose, Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

The Prince Takamado Memorial Gallery is located at the Prince Takamado Memorial Sports Park at JIU’s Togane Campus.

The gallery has a permanent exhibition of valuable art objects from the Japan-Korea 2002 World Cup that was accompanied by Prince Takamado’s efforts to make the world cup happen smoothly, a role in which he invested a great deal of time and effort. This gallery is a testament to the important work the prince carried out to foster friendly relations between various countries. The exhibition is open to everyone. Opening hours: 10:00-16:00. Closed: Sundays, national holidays.

If you wish to visit, please call 0475-55-8800 in advance.

JIU TIMES | SUMMER 2018

Scene on Campus

One immigrant’s legacy

by JIU Times

In March, JIU was ranked 13th in the Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings 2018 — compiled in collaboration with Japan’s licencee Corp. — in the environmental sector. JIU’s international education has been highly rated for its proportion of staff to international students on campus, the number of students in various types of international exchange programs and the number of classes taught in a language other than Japanese.

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

JOSAI 25/50 ANNIVERSARY

1. Expanding the capabilities of our students to serve society
2. Developing human resources with an international mindset and extensive knowledge of Japanese culture
3. Continuously improving the quality of our educational programs, in collaboration with local and international communities
4. Improving our research capabilities and promoting innovation
5. Enriching the campus environment through internationalization and networking
6. Establishing a stronger university governance system to support the dynamic development of teaching, research and contributions to the community
7. Strengthening the impact of our communication capabilities and social presence

About Josia University Educational Corporation’s Medium-Term Goals

The Josia University Educational Corporation Medium-Term Goals (2016-2020) are comprised of seven “J-Visions.” These seven visions are inter-related, multiplying their synergy, to further our commitment to becoming a leading university in Japan, Asia and the world.

The corporation established Josia University in 1965, and it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. Josia International University was established in 1992, and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017. We are determined to bring to bear all of our mental energies, capabilities, accumulated knowledge and experience on the tasks that will define our future.
by Mayu Yamamoto

Letters from alumni — Vol. 1

I have been working at the Japanese embassy in Slovenia as a dispatched staff member for the diplomatic representation of the International University" since September 2016. I live in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, a new country, independent from Yugoslavia since 1991, and became an European Union member in 2004.

Dispatched staff members of the IHSSA are sent to places such as embassies or consulates general to assist in administrative duties, as well as to gain experience in the international community and to contribute to friendship and goodwill, with a term of two years (in principle), under the Worker Dispatch Law. Work content varies depending on where you are dispatched. There are currently 268 people dispatched to 200 Japanese embassies and consulates general.

The main job of dispatched staff is administrative work, arranging hotel and transportation and organizing city tours for tourists. Since our embassy is small, I am also in charge of and focus on cultural, academic and sports exchange activities.

While I was a student at Josai International University, I job hunted, which is called "sukatsukai" in Japanese slang. But I was not sure what I really wanted to do, and I was also interested in becoming a teacher. Since my major in this subject was my minor, but if I wanted to do that, I needed to study more at graduate school, and I was not sure about doing that. Josai University was the only one in this situation, I found this job by chance. Although I was told that it would be a term of two years, I thought that I could challenge myself to a variety of things and experience a lot, so I decided to apply.

One advantage I have in my current work comes from my English and studies at university. I was not good at being self-studious at the undergraduate level, but I assumed that I could gain communication skills by participating in lots of overseas programs and internship. If you want to work as a good diplomat, you cannot fully explain it to Slovenian people if you are not able to express it properly in Japanese.

I am now practicing kendo (third dan), one of the Japanese martial arts here in Slovenia, which I had done for about 10 years in Japan. I have been engaging in exchanges with people by practicing kendo (kendo practitioners) in Slovenia and neighboring countries, and also working as a referee, both inside and outside of the country. Slovenia has fewer kendo practitioners than it does judo, so I hope I can spread it a bit more. Through interaction with the locals, I am learning Slovenian even though it is a difficult language.


campus landmark, located in the city of metropolitan Tokyo. The Oishi Fossil Gallery was founded in affiliation with the Musu- mae Memorial Museum of Josai University Educational Corp., in spring 2013. The objective of the gallery is to provide opportunity to evoke the interest in the sciences among younger generations through exhibitions and other educational programs of paleontology. Under a policy to contribute to the Liaison Paleontological Museum of Shonan, National University, the Oishi Collection consists of specimens of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous and Paleogene Periods. Some, such as the coelacanth, are as far back as from the Devonian Period. The gallery also includes workshops that nurture a thirst for knowledge and inquisitive spirit in elementary to junior high-school students. The skeleton of a king-sized, carnivorous dinosaur, restored, is furnished by the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning has become a landmark, located in the city of metropolitan Tokyo.

The Oishi Fossil Gallery on Josai's To- kyos Campus is exhibiting the Oishi Collect and specimen of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous and Paleogene Periods. The workshop will be given in English, and the organizing fee is 3,000 yen. For more information, please call 03-6828-1031, or see www.jousi.jyu.org.


Josai: A History

By Ken Takahashi, Program Director, Fossil Gallery of Josai University Educational Corporation

The Fossil Gallery on Josai's To- kyos Campus is exhibiting the Oishi Collect and specimen of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous and Paleogene Periods. Some, such as the coelacanth, are as far back as from the Devonian Period. The gallery also includes workshops that nurture a thirst for knowledge and inquisitive spirit in elementary to junior high-school students. The skeleton of a king-sized, carnivorous dinosaur, restored, is furnished by the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning has become a landmark, located in the city of metropolitan Tokyo.

The Oishi Fossil Gallery was founded in affiliation with the Musu- mae Memorial Museum of Josai University Educational Corp., in spring 2013. The objective of the gallery is to provide opportunity to evoke the interest in the sciences among younger generations through exhibitions and other educational programs of paleontology. Under a policy to contribute to the Liaison Paleontological Museum of Shonan, National University, the Oishi Collection consists of specimens of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous and Paleogene Periods. Some, such as the coelacanth, are as far back as from the Devonian Period. The gallery also includes workshops that nurture a thirst for knowledge and inquisitive spirit in elementary to junior high-school students. The skeleton of a king-sized, carnivorous dinosaur, restored, is furnished by the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning has become a landmark, located in the city of metropolitan Tokyo.

By Ken Takahashi, Program Director, Fossil Gallery of Josai University Educational Corporation

The Fossil Gallery on Josai's To- kyos Campus is exhibiting the Oishi Collect and specimen of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous and Paleogene Periods. Some, such as the coelacanth, are as far back as from the Devonian Period. The gallery also includes workshops that nurture a thirst for knowledge and inquisitive spirit in elementary to junior high-school students. The skeleton of a king-sized, carnivorous dinosaur, restored, is furnished by the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning has become a landmark, located in the city of metropolitan Tokyo.
Alumna Princess Ayako engaged

by JIUTimes

The Imperial Household Agency formally announced on July 2 that Princess Ayako, the third daughter of Princess Hisako and Prince Takamado, Emperor Akihito's cousin, will marry Kei Moriya, a 32-year-old employee of shipping firm NYK Line in October.

Her mother, Princess Hisako, introduced Moriya to her daughter in the hope that Princess Ayako, studying philanthropy, would become interested in philanthropic activities in developing countries. Moriya is a board member of the nonprofit organization Kokkyo Kido-shi (KnK), meaning "Children without Borders," and Princess Hisako attended several events organized by the group. Moriya's late mother had also served as an executive board member.

Princess Ayako graduated from the Josai International University's Faculty of Social Work Studies in March 2013. She also earned her master's degree at Josai in 2016 after studying overseas in Canada. The princess, who is an honorary patron of the Canada-Japan Society, began working as a faculty researcher in June last year. She was a manager of JIU's soccer team when she was a university student.

Moriya went to nursery school in Paris and attended the International School of Geneva for a year and a half during his middle and high school years. He also studied abroad at the University of Oxford while enrolled at Keio University's Faculty of Letters. According to KnK, he took over his mother's activities after she passed away suddenly in July 2015 during a trip to visit institutions supporting underprivileged children in Cambodia.

Delegation from BBS visits JIU

by JIUTimes

A delegation from Budapest Business School (BBS) visited JIU's headquarters on May 28.

Ferenc Dietz, their new chancellor, was among the delegation, along with former president Iva Sandor-Krist and professor emeritus Hidasi. Josai University Educational Corp. and BBS have been sister schools since 2007.

Since then, 104 exchange students have studied at BBS as Japan by JIU students and teaching assistants in the Japan Foundation-sponsored program, while also participating in various projects.

On May 28, the delegation visited Togane Campus and met with their students currently enrolled in the Faculty of International Humanities. JIU has hosted 12 individuals from BBS since 2007.

Biennial festival connects students, faculty with tradition

by Tomoko Hirose,
Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

On June 10, Josai faculty members, staff and students participated in Hie Shrine's Sanno Festival, with the Hikawaka-cho 2-chome neighborhood association and local companies. The Sanno Festival is held once every two years and one of the three major festivals in Japan, along with the Gion Festival in Kyoto and the Tanabata Festival in Osaka.

At 9 a.m., after prayers for safety during festival operations, 20 students and 14 faculty and staff members from Josai carried a portable shrine on their shoulders along with other participants. The weather was not particularly good, the parade consisting of around 300 people was spectacular, Lipovitan D (an energy drink) was offered to all participants by Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. — Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corp. Akira Uehara serves as the company's chairman — at a rest stop in Building No. 3 of the campus.

Although the weather was not particularly good, the parade consisting of around 300 people was spectacular. No. 3 of the campus. Nowadays, because people hardly ever come into daily contact with the traditions and customs of Japan, it is a very valuable experience for young students, university staff and faculty to participate in this grand festival and work up a sweat carrying the portable shrine alongside local residents. The next Sanno festival will be held in 2020, the same year as the Tokyo Olympic Games. Students, faculty and staff members will also be encouraged to participate at that time.

JIU's mission: Character building through learning

JIU prides itself on its youthful ambition and energy, on its commitment to forming the characters of young people with dreams and noble visions of working for the benefit of both local and international communities. The university is guided by the spiritual legacy of its founder, a mission of "character building through learning," in helping students to make themselves responsible individuals and members of society at large.

JIU provides much more than specialized and liberal education in the classroom. The university offers three practical training programs that focus on the use of foreign language and information processing skills for planning and implementation, and on the development of the abilities to take the initiative in their endeavors. The first of these three programs, "field training," was first introduced in Japan by JIU and includes a variety of internships and on-the-job training. The second program is "project training," in which students undertake various projects that they have conceived and planned on their own. The third is "career education," in which students choose their future occupations and start to prepare for their careers by developing their own capabilities.

Throughout these and other training and education programs, JIU helps students to find their mission in life and offers them solid support with specific preparation and training.

JIU TIMES
Staff and Contributors
Maria Shigemichi Ichiyama
Hideo Usuki
Steve Sibbee

JOSAI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
4-5-4 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo
http://www.jiu.ac.jp
Serendipity | Teaching is my calling — Vol. 21

by Colin Thompson, Assistant Professor, Center for Language Education
Graduate School of Humanities

Teaching is one of the greatest jobs in the world. Seeing learners progress and
enjoy learning is very rewarding. I’ve been teaching for approximately 14 years.
My particular field of teaching (TESOL), which is teaching English to speakers of
other languages, actually began by chance — a career serendipity. When I was a uni-
versity student in the U.K., I was never my intention to become an English lan-
guage teacher, or a university lecturer or researcher for that matter. I studied eco-
nomics and I began my career in the pen-
sion industry. I worked for multinational
companies in the U.K., Ireland, Australia
and New Zealand. However, after several
years of corporate life, I wanted a career
change. I felt that something was missing.
So, I stepped away from my job and went
traveling throughout Asia. Experiencing
different cultures and communicating with
people of different nationalities had such a
positive effect on me that I began thinking
about a career that would involve this type
of interaction. On my return to the U.K., I
realized that teaching English as foreign
language could be something that I would
genuinely enjoy doing for a career. So I
 gained a qualification in teaching English
and secured a position teaching English
in a language school in Fukuoka. I really
enjoyed my time in Fukuoka teaching stu-
dents and working with teachers of differ-
ent backgrounds; I even met my future wife
(another serendipity!). As a result, I wanted
to improve my knowledge and skills as an
English language teacher. I enrolled in a
master’s TESOL course and this paved
the way for my career as a university lec-
turer. My first position was at Ritsumeikan
Asia Pacific University (APU) in Osaka. After
completing my Ph.D. in applied linguistics,
I began working as a TESOL instructor, as
well as an English language lecturer; and
last year I was fortunate enough to start
teaching at JIU as an assistant professor of
English. Lecturing in TESOL is particu-
larly rewarding for me because I’m able
to pass on knowledge on a topic that I’m
passionate about to students who are also
interested in developing their careers as
language teachers. I’m also fortunate to be
able to publish TESOL content and engage
in research with talented teachers and
researchers all over the world. In March this
year, Cambridge Uni-

KAMOGAWA CORNER

The 12th Mineoka Forest Road cherry blossom walking event

by the Faculty of Tourism

On April 4, some 60 partici-
pants from the local community
and students from the Faculty of
Tourism joined the 12th Mineoka
Forest Road cherry blossom walking event.

The Mineoka Forest Road
Cherry Blossom Rejuvenation
Project was inaugurated in 2006
as a means for JIU students to
better understand the nature,
history and culture of the area
immediate to the Awa Campus.

Working with local residents,
the project has enabled Faculty
of Tourism students to bring the
area along the road back to life.

The annual 12-kilometer walk-
ing event began at the Awa Cam-
pus and ended at the farmhouse
where Mikio Mizuta, founder of
Josai University, was born. Con-
ditions for the walk were ideal
as the weather was warm and
the cherry blossoms were in full
bloom. An outdoor tea ceremony
was held at the farmhouse by
Josai University. (Picture)

Students share research findings

by Mutsumi Nakamura,
Admissions Office

On April 27, JIU sixth-year phar-
acy student Taichi Hijinga and 10
teaching year students gave individual
presentations in English on the re-
search activities they conducted
trough JIU’s study-abroad programs
held in the past academic year.
Hira-
ga studied at Thailand’s Chulalong-
karern University for three months
as an exchange student, and the fourth-
year students stayed at the University
of California, Riverside, through our
short-term pharmacy training pro-
gram. The topics of their presenta-
tions included pharmacy education,
pharmacist’s roles in Japan and the
U.S. and international comparisons
of the framework for orphan drug
designation, i.e., drugs that are used
for rare diseases but are not market-
ed or under-developed due to small
numbers of patients.

Global lecture series book published

by Tomoko Hino, Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

Josai University Educational Corp. University Press has pub-
lished a book containing the Global
Lecture Series titled “Global Lec-
tures — Mikio Mizuta Memorial.”

The book was published on the
50th anniversary of Mizuta found-
ing Josai University. (Picture)
Let's exchange!

by Amira Ahmad

My name is Amira Ahmad and I am a second-year student from Malaysia. I am currently enrolled in the Women’s Studies major at Josai International University. The Look East Policy of Malaysia which aims to emulate Japanese ways of living and the value systems has all the components that made me want to learn more about Japan. Being here at JIU allows me to experience the culture of Japan that is far more beautiful than what I had imagined before.

One of the first things I observed upon my arrival in Japan, apart from the blooming sakura cherry blossoms, was the enhanced beauty of nature in this country. I feel that the love of Japan for the environment is manifested through the colorful flowers along the streets, a high standard of cleanliness and an emphasis on respect for the environment. Besides that, I am also attracted by the simplicity and elegance of the architectural design of the buildings and houses here in Japan that is quite different from my homeland.

I value the opportunity to experience cultures from people with different backgrounds and countries as it helps me broaden my mind and see things from different perspectives. It inspires me to share things about the culture I have experienced with the students here while I learn from them. It is indeed overwhelming and enjoyable to discover the rich and diverse Japanese culture and language with people and experiencing their kindness and politeness.

I am grateful to be given the chance to be a part of the JIU community and improve my understanding of the Japanese culture and language. It is rather a wonderful experience to be given the opportunity to give me to be a humble learner and deliver the best outcome in the future.

by Jordan Estisco

My name is Jordan Estisco and I am from Hawaii. I am currently a third-year student in the international exchange program here at Josai International University. Before coming here, I graduated with my associate degree in TV production from Reedley Community College in Hawaii. My whole life, I never really thought about studying abroad until my first visit to Japan in 2012. I instantly fell in love with the culture and the people. After that trip, I made it a dream to somehow make it to Japan and live here. For four years, I have been trying to find ways to come here until I talked to a school counselor who told me about the International Exchange program, and I instantly jumped at the opportunity.

Studying here at JIU has been a great experience because I get to meet new friends who are not only Japanese, but from all parts of the world. I am enjoying learning about their different cultures and lifestyles while also sharing who I am from. I have also formed great relationships with some of my professors who give me great advice or just have conversations with me.

JIU has given me an opportunity to live out my dream of living in Japan, while also furthering my education. While a student at JIU, I plan to make more friends and travel around Japan to enjoy my life here in Japan.

by Amandine Jousset

My name is Amandine Jousset. I came from France, where I study management at the University of Burgundy. I will enter my third year of studies in September.

I have been studying Japanese since middle school; at first for one hour per week with a teacher, and then through self-study. I have always admired Japan since primary school, thanks to the stories of a friend who is 10 years older than me. At first, it was through

Scene on Campus

Japanese language and culture program

by Yasuhito Omoto, Associate Professor, Center for Language Education

The intensive Japanese Language and Culture Program of the Center for Language Education at the Togane Campus ended on June 15. Fifteen students from Spelman College and Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, began the program on May 21 and participated in 40.5 hours of Japanese language and culture study and 31.5 hours of cultural studies. All about the Japanese work program, it was quite intensive.

This year, the language learning component of the program consisted of two levels of Japanese classes. Students were placed in accordance with their Japanese proficiency levels. Some had little or no experience in Japanese studies, but they were successfully communicating with Japanese students in Japanese by the end of the program. Each student had a few conversation partners, and they would eat out with them once a week. If a student needed additional help with their studies, there were native speakers or called “Mentor Sessions” with a walk-in or request policy. There was no need for ad

This is quite hard at first to adjust to a writing system completely different from the French one, but not noticing, I became used to read kanji as a sensory experience. I feel it is a bit (I still have a hard time with kanji, though). I have wanted to try to improve my writing, but I couldn’t really imagine what a sentence in Japanese country. That is why I came to Japan twice (summer 2015 and 2017 in Osaka) to study Japanese at a language school for one month each time while staying with a Japanese host family. Each time I returned back to France, I feel that my heart had been abandoned somewhere in Japan. I have never been able to forget the experiences I had while living in this country, and I deeply feel that I had to live here more than ever.

That is why the reason is I really return to Josai International University and the University of Burgundy for granting me the opportunity to study at the Togane Campuses for two semesters. This time I am not only studying, but also living by myself and having responsibilities. I love studying at JIU and I really enjoy life in Japan. That is the first time I can really concentrate on my Japanese studies and, I believe, what I needed the most. After having been here for a long time, I have to tell that Japan feels more like my homeland than France. I am not just attached to its landscapes, but also with the way Japan deals with technology and traditions, including the Japanese people’s way of thinking, most of all, but I can also say here I can be myself.

I also think that Japanese people are starting to open them up to foreign cultures, and I am really glad about that. I can also improve my Japanese every day, thanks to the local experience. I meet, not only in class, but also when I go shopping, eat out and when I travel. I hope from the bottom of my heart that the eight remaining months will bring me lots of unforgettable memories, as well as fruitful social and work experiences to allow me to come back to this country as fast as I can. For the moment, I am only able to enjoy the cherry blossoms, but I look forward to experiencing every season by everyone’s side here at JIU.

Each day here broadens my mind and makes me aware of what is around me and to cherish the places I was given. Japan and its people and barged into my heart, but I am deeply thankful for them, because they are the ones I will be always with me. I am always thankful to Josai International University for allowing me to be a part of their community.

I am from Hawaii. I am currently a graduate student in Japanese language and culture program at Josai International University. The Look East Policy of Malaysia aims to emulate Japanese ways of living and the value systems has all the components that made me want to learn more about Japan. Being here at JIU allows me to experience the culture of Japan that is far more beautiful than what I had imagined before.

One of the first things I observed upon my arrival in Japan, apart from the blooming sakura cherry blossoms, was the enhanced beauty of nature in this country. I feel that the love of Japan for the environment is manifested through the colorful flowers along the streets, a high standard of cleanliness and an emphasis on respect for the environment. Besides that, I am also attracted by the simplicity and elegance of the architectural design of the buildings and houses here in Japan that is quite different from my homeland.

I value the opportunity to experience cultures from people with different backgrounds and countries as it helps me broaden my mind and see things from different perspectives. It inspires me to share things about the culture I have experienced with the students here while I learn from them. It is indeed overwhelming and enjoyable to discover the rich and diverse Japanese culture and language with people and experiencing their kindness and politeness.

I am grateful to be given the chance to be a part of the JIU community and improve my understanding of the Japanese culture and language. It is rather a wonderful experience to be given the opportunity to give me to be a humble learner and deliver the best outcome in the future.

by Amira Ahmad

My name is Amira Ahmad and I am a second-year student from Malaysia. I am currently enrolled in the Women’s Studies major at Josai International University. The Look East Policy of Malaysia aims to emulate Japanese ways of living and the value systems has all the components that made me want to learn more about Japan. Being here at JIU allows me to experience the culture of Japan that is far more beautiful than what I had imagined before.

One of the first things I observed upon my arrival in Japan, apart from the blooming sakura cherry blossoms, was the enhanced beauty of nature in this country. I feel that the love of Japan for the environment is manifested through the colorful flowers along the streets, a high standard of cleanliness and an emphasis on respect for the environment. Besides that, I am also attracted by the simplicity and elegance of the architectural design of the buildings and houses here in Japan that is quite different from my homeland.

I value the opportunity to experience cultures from people with different backgrounds and countries as it helps me broaden my mind and see things from different perspectives. It inspires me to share things about the culture I have experienced with the students here while I learn from them. It is indeed overwhelming and enjoyable to discover the rich and diverse Japanese culture and language with people and experiencing their kindness and politeness.

I am grateful to be given the chance to be a part of the JIU community and improve my understanding of the Japanese culture and language. It is rather a wonderful experience to be given the opportunity to give me to be a humble learner and deliver the best outcome in the future.

by Amira Ahmad

My name is Amira Ahmad and I am a second-year student from Malaysia. I am currently enrolled in the Women’s Studies major at Josai International University. The Look East Policy of Malaysia aims to emulate Japanese ways of living and the value systems has all the components that made me want to learn more about Japan. Being here at JIU allows me to experience the culture of Japan that is far more beautiful than what I had imagined before.

One of the first things I observed upon my arrival in Japan, apart from the blooming sakura cherry blossoms, was the enhanced beauty of nature in this country. I feel that the love of Japan for the environment is manifested through the colorful flowers along the streets, a high standard of cleanliness and an emphasis on respect for the environment. Besides that, I am also attracted by the simplicity and elegance of the architectural design of the buildings and houses here in Japan that is quite different from my homeland.

I value the opportunity to experience cultures from people with different backgrounds and countries as it helps me broaden my mind and see things from different perspectives. It inspires me to share things about the culture I have experienced with the students here while I learn from them. It is indeed overwhelming and enjoyable to discover the rich and diverse Japanese culture and language with people and experiencing their kindness and politeness.

I am grateful to be given the chance to be a part of the JIU community and improve my understanding of the Japanese culture and language. It is rather a wonderful experience to be given the opportunity to give me to be a humble learner and deliver the best outcome in the future.
Let’s exchange!

by Zuzanna Bielecka

My name is Zuzanna Bielecka and I come from Poland. I came to Japan last September to study at Josai University’s Sakado Campus for a one-year exchange program, and very soon I will be returning to my country in August. Looking back, it is hard to believe how fast time flies. During this year, there were moments when I would stumble across something interesting and would turn to my country in August.

One of the good things about cultural exchange is that you can get some rest from the reality you know when it comes to all the things you like and all the things that annoy you about your own country, and soak up another world where even the simplest things that are obvious for locals can be surprising, funny or puzzling to you. But after some time, as I got used to my everyday life as an exchange student at Josai University, things that used to surprise me became more common and normal, to the point where someone asking “What surprised you the most when you came to Japan?” became difficult to answer.

There are many things I like and will miss about Japan. I like the cleanliness and the fact that people on average are not so inviting and give each other some space. During this year, I had a chance to travel a little bit throughout Japan and there are many truly beautiful places that are worth seeing. However, as an exchange student, my life revolved mostly around school and people I met there, and it was a good experience to see how being at university can be different in Poland compared to Japan. I am happy that I met many kind people and if anyone asked me if it is a good idea to go abroad to study, I would definitely tell them to go for it.

by Agnes Dalmadi

My name is Agnes Dalmadi and I am a university student from Hungary. I came to Japan to study at Josai University’s Faculty of Management for a year. In my home country, I am enrolled in Eotvos Lorand University’s Japanology Master’s course.

I’ve been studying Japanese since I was a high school student. I got involved with Japanese culture even before that, thanks to my fascination started as a hobby of learning simple kanji, but as years passed, I started to realize that it is best if you turn your hobby into your career as well. As I got involved with it, I had the good fortune to learn amazing things about Japan, meet various people from here and open up my world. The next step of this journey was coming to Japan, and thanks to a Josai University scholarship, I’ve been able to experience student life amid such a beautiful culture.

I was very excited to come to Japan, even though I was just as scared. However, I was quickly reassured about my stay here by all those who helped me settle down in the first few weeks. My fellow exchange students and I had doubts about many things, but as time went by, we learned how to fit into this world. At first, it wasn’t easy talking with other Japanese students, but we were treated with such warmth that we quickly made lots of friends. People here turned out to be very outgoing and nice; we went to many restaurants together and had lots of fun. I learn new things from them every day – the best places to eat, best local foods to try, places worth visiting and more.

I’ve been studying Japanese since I was a high school student. I got involved with Japanese culture even before that, thanks to my fascination started as a hobby of learning simple kanji, but as years passed, I started to realize that it is best if you turn your hobby into your career as well. As I got involved with it, I had the good fortune to learn amazing things about Japan, meet various people from here and open up my world. The next step of this journey was coming to Japan, and thanks to a Josai University scholarship, I’ve been able to experience student life amid such a beautiful culture.

I’m very grateful to have had this opportunity to change my life and myself for the better. Meeting with foreign people and exchanging ideas and opinions, as well as sharing experiences and memories are all fundamental for better understanding each other and becoming more accepting and respectful toward other cultures. I really look forward to coming back here and deepening the relations of our countries.

by Sang Chu

My name is Sang Chu and I’m from China. Three years ago, I started studying Japanese at Dalian University of Foreign Languages and it soon became a part of my life. Because I became interested in Japanese culture, I was given an opportunity to study in Japan and enhance my Japanese abilities. So, I came to Japan and became an exchange student at Josai University.

I’m honored and grateful to have such a good opportunity to be an exchange student in Japan. I came to Japan with many hopes. Here at Josai, I’ve met many foreign students and made lots of friends. We communicate with each other about cultures and customs of different countries. Even though our backgrounds are different, we all respect each other and it brings our cultures together. During this time, I’ve learned a lot and broadened my horizons. The teachers here are all friendly and kind. They not only give me knowledge, but also help me in my daily life and encourage me when I struggle.

It was a little bit difficult for me to communicate with others when I first came to Japan, as a lot of Japanese native speakers. They were all patient and encouraged me to be more and more confident. Now, I can speak Japanese much more frequently and I will continue to work hard.

Rugby volunteer recruitment starts

By JU Times

Translated by Toma Gyoengyver

Volunteer recruitment for the 2019 Rugby World Cup has begun. The recruitment of around 10,000 volunteers (known as Team No-Side) is taking place for the 12 host cities where the matches will be held. Volunteers are expected to participate as “the faces of Japan,” representing the country. As the Kumagaya Sports and Culture Park’s rugby field in Saitama prefecture will be the venue for the prefecture’s recruiting event, the representative in charge of the event from the Saitama Prefectural Office’s Department of the World Cup visited Josai University on May 14, extending an invitation to attend the recruitment event. Josai University responded, saying, “Experience in volunteering is valuable in both international exchanges and job hunting. We would like to cooperate by putting up posters about the recruitment.”

Volunteers must be over the age of 18 by March 2019 and able to participate for a maximum of eight hours a day. Recruitment runs until July 18, and from August to December, applicants are required to take part in interviews in the World Cup host cities. During the event, potential volunteers will support event management, as well as guides for attendees. Twenty teams, including Japan, are expected to compete in the World Cup that starts next September and lasts until November, with three matches slated to be held at Kumagaya Sports and Culture Park.
Takahiko Yamamura, an Olympian who competed at the Sydney Games, has been appointed coach of Josai University Junior and Senior High School’s Track and Field Club in Tokyo’s Toshima Ward. Approximately 120 members of the club are training hard, aiming to be the best in Japan.

There are many great athletes, such as alum Abdul Hakim Sani Brown, who won the 100 and 200 meters at the IAAF World Youth Championships in 2015 and participated in the London World Championships in Athletics, as well as third-year Justin Junpei Tsukamoto, also a sprinter, acknowledged as a “Diamond Athlete” by the Japan Association of Athletics Federations, and aiming to compete in the Tokyo Olympics.

Aside from Yamamura, the complete team of instructors consists of two-time Olympic athlete Masato Naitou, Kenjirou Jitsui, who excels at both long-distance running and marathons, and Yoko Shibui who holds the Japanese record for the 10,000 meters.

Since the school is close to the heart of Tokyo, the school grounds are small; only the sprinters and the hurdlers practice there three times a week at the only tennis court, while long-distance runners mainly train by running on the roads. In the meantime, jumpers are renting Nihon University’s sports ground to practice.

“At the IAAF World U20 Championships in July, I want to run together with my “senpai,” Abdul Hakim Sani Brown,” said Tsukamoto, expressing his excitement for the upcoming race.